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A Hook & Crook Publication.

Unfortunately Bob Lichtman's Egoboo Poll proposal did not receive enough votes to pass a constitutional amendment. However as a large majority of those who voted were in favor of it, Bob and I are conducting a semi-official one, ballots for which are attached. Fill them out and return to Bob by June 1st. Bob will tabulate and write up the results and

I will send them out as a postmailing to the June mailing. It's rather late to be judging the 1960 mailings, but we all should be able to remember back that far and Bob and I think that it is important to get the poll off the ground before next year. There is an extra ballot so the completists will have one to file. I'm also sending another extra ballot to joint memberships, as in this case I think both should be able to vote.

If you are again voting or didn't see last year's mailings, at least please return the blank ballot as "an expression of interest" and you might fill in the section on what's wrong with OMPA and what can be done to improve it.

It seems to be generally admitted that OMPA is in a decline. There has been a steady falling off in the quality of the mailings and the interest of the members. This is a very vicious circle as good mailings create a good response which makes for another good mailing and bad mailings do not inspire anyone to put out good material for the next mailing. When an apa goes into decline, something drastic has to be done to get it on its feet again. What can we do?

We can try to put out good material even though not particularly inspired to do so. We can also give egoboo to those who do put out good stuff, so that they will have reason to do it again. The Egoboo Poll is one method of doing this, but more important that this is M*A*I*L*I*N*G C*O*M*M*E*N*T*S. If you don't tell people that you liked something and why, are they supposed to esp it or something?

I agree with Ethel that one reason that OMPA started down the slide in the first place was the lack of mailing comments or mailing comments of the I-liked-this-and-I-didn't-like-that-and let's-get-on-to-the-next-zine type. If you don't follow up interesting points brought up by other members, you are cutting out part of your own possible enjoyment of OMPA, as well as their deserved egoboo.

But if there is no genuine interest in an apa, the efforts of a few people aren't going to help much. We must create interest. One way of doing this is by enlarging the membership and bringing in fresh enthusiasm. I am therefore proposing that we enlarge the membership to 55. Aside from the initial enthusiasm of new members, 55 members make a more stable group. The experience of FAPA with it's 65 members shows that. With 65--and I hope with 55--members as interest and activity shifts from one group of members to another the transition is smooth as there are enough members to take up the slack. In OMPA and in SAPS when two or three of the more active members lose interest, the mailings begin to suffer and not-so-good mailings begin the cycle of decline. Maybe 55 members still aren't enough for stability of this sort, but let's give it a try.

At the same time I am proposing we reduce the renewal page requirements somewhat to offset the increased cost of 10 extra copies of a zine which I understand would pinch some people.

In fact there are quite a few proposed amendments following. While in general I'm not too happy about worrying about the exact wording of the constitution, I think that some of the operating rules of OMPA have made it easy for it to "wither away" and these rules can't be changed unless the constitution is changed. Besides the increase in membership and procedural reform the proposed amendments deal with tightening up renewal requirements and in control of the waiting list. We want to be sure that when a member joins OMPA he has a genuine interest and will fit in with the group. There is also no reason for keeping members on the roster a mailing or two after they have obviously lost interest or in making it easy for deadwood members to hang on indefinitely.

Besides increasing the membership to 55, probably my most controversial proposal is to have one to screen the waiting list, but I think that it is necessary to have some procedure to handle the situation when George Wetzel or others of that ilk apply for membership. Of course this device will be used to keep people like Norman Westborough out also, and I don't think that's a bad idea either.

We are having such trouble getting half of the membership to vote that I am also including FAPA's solution to this problem in my proposed amending procedure. Their reasoning is as follows: if 18 members vote for something, that isn't half the membership (considering it to be 45), but at the same time if 18 members vote for something and 17 vote against it, it would be passed as that would make 35 members voting. There doesn't seem to be any reason why the first vote of 18 shouldn't pass a measure also. The FAPA rule therefore is that a constitutional amendment must have a majority of votes and that this majority must be at least 1/4 of the members.

I propose the following amendments to the Constitution:

(1) Amend Section 3. MEMBERS to read: "Not more than 55 persons may be members at one time."

(2) Amend Section 3. MEMBERS to read: "When the membership is complete a waiting list will be formed and when a vacancy occurs the first waiting applicant will be invited to submit credentials and dues. The credentials must have been published within a year of the date his membership is to begin and will be listed in OFF TRAILS. If he does not submit credentials and dues he shall be removed from the waiting list and the next applicant invited. The waiting list shall be listed each quarter in OFF TRAILS, copies of which shall be sent to each person upon the waiting list. The treasurer shall require from each person on the waiting list that

he acknowledge receipt of OFF TRAILS as an expression of continued interest not less than every other mailing; non-receipt of such acknowledgement shall be grounds of removal from the waiting list." And to repeal Bye-Law #21 (as numbered in the September 1960 OFF TRAILS) as not being sufficient invitation to join if alone and redundant if an invitation to join is sent.

(3) Amend Section 4. RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP to read: "To be eligible to renew membership a member must have published or had published in OMPA mailings in his or her preceding year of membership 10 quarto pages of their equivalent."

(4) Add to Section 4. RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP the following: "Postmailings count for renewal credentials, but only those distributed before the fourth quarterly mailing date. A member may distribute any material he wishes through OMPA, providing it is lawfully mailable, but his renewal credentials must not have had prior distribution. Reprints do not count unless they represent substantial work in re-writing or compiling the material. If a member fails to have renewal credentials due to circumstances beyond his control a unanimous vote of the officers of OMPA may give him an additional quarter in which to make up his credential deficiency, but this shall be for one quarter only. If a longer delay is involved or if the officers do not agree to the waiver a member may circulate a petition among the members for this purpose and upon endorsement of 1/3 of the other members a member's lack of renewal credentials will be waived on a particular occasion. Renewal dues must be paid so as to be received by the treasurer on or before the mailing date of the fourth mailing under the member's current membership." And repeal Bye-Laws 16, 17 & 18 (as numbered Sept '60 OFF TRAILS) as they conflict with this.

(5) Amend Section 8. ELECTIONS to read: "An election to all official posts is held annually by mail. Candidates whose names appear on the ballot must inform the President before February 21st in any year and ballot forms will be sent out in the March mailing. These must be returned to the official teller named in the March OFF TRAILS within six weeks of dispatch. The teller and a checker tabulate the ballots and inform the President of the results within two weeks after the deadline. The results are published in the June OFF TRAILS. A simple majority vote elects. Write-in votes are counted. A ballot shall be circulated even though there is only one candidate for each office. New terms start four weeks after posting of the June mailing. The names of those voting shall be published along with the results in elections and in all other matters voted on."

(6) Add to Section 8. ELECTIONS the following: The officers shall distribute with the annual ballot, and as a part thereof, an official form on which members may list names of waiting-listers to whom they object. These results are not announced, but any waiting-lister objected to by ten or more of the voters in the election is dropped from the waiting list and may not apply again for admission for one year."

(7) Add to Section 7. OFFICERS. The President. "He will conduct an annual Egoboo Poll ballots for which will be distributed with the December mailing and will publish the results in the March mailing."

(8) Amend Section 9. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION to read: Proposed amendments to this constitution, in writing, endorsed by four members, no more than two of whom are officers, shall be submitted to vote. The proposers shall send a copy with the signatures to the president, and other copies to other officers. The gist of the amendment must be given in OFF TRAILS the mailing before it comes up for vote. Unless the president orders a special vote, amendments shall be voted on at the annual election. A majority of the votes must be favorable for the amendment to be adopted, and such majority must be more than 1/4 of the membership. Any part of the Constitution may be suspended, officers removed, etc. by a signed

proposal from over half the current members after the entire membership has been circulated."

I propose the following amendments to the Bye-Laws:

(Bye-Laws are numbered according to numbering in the September 1960 OFF TRAILS)

(1) Amend Bye-Law 2 to read: "Amendments to the Bye-Laws shall be proposed and voted on in the same manner as amendments to the constitution except that no quorum is required to alter the Bye-Laws and a simple majority of those voting will be sufficient to amend them".

(2) Amend Bye-Law 3 to read: "The constitution and Bye-Laws shall be printed in full in the June OFF TRAILS and whenever any amendment to either of them is passed. A copy will be sent to each new member."

(3) Repeal Bye-Laws 6 & 8. These deal with associate memberships which is a bad idea and could be used to by-pass the waiting list.

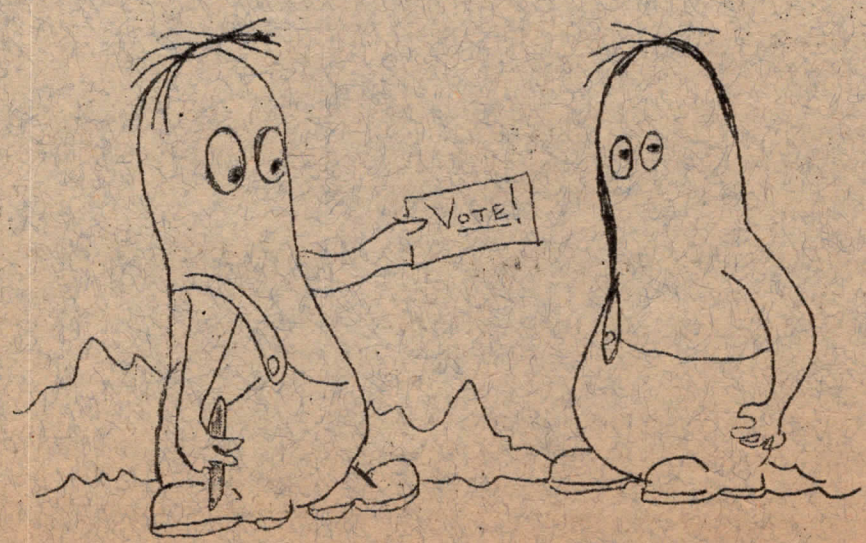
(4) Repeal Bye-Law 7 as unnecessary. Naturally if a husband and wife are each a member in their own right and don't have a joint membership they will get two bundles, etc. You don't need a special rule for it.

(5) Repeal Bye-Law 22 and the recently passed ones--whatever their numbers--asking for, expecting, requiring voting etc. as unnecessary, redundant, unenforceable and a lousy thing to have in any constitution.

Well, that's all and I seem to have done my bit to make George Locke's dire prophecy about the size of OFFTRAILS come true.

And as long as we are doing this, why not be thorough about it? Does anybody else have any more amendments? What about resubmitting yours that didn't pass, Archie? Let's get this damn voting out of the way once and for all. Sigh. That, unfortunately is a vain dream as unexpected situations will crop up.

Oh well.....



EGOB00

This is your ballot for the Egoboo Poll covering OMPA's 1960 mailings. Please fill out immediately and return to Bob Lichtman, 6137 S. Croft Ave., Los Angeles 56, Calif., USA. Ballots received on or after June 1, 1961 will not be counted. If you vote for yourself that won't be counted either. You need not fill in all the spaces nor vote in all the categories nor use all of the points allowed. But V*O*T*E!

BEST OMPAZINE. 30 points to distribute. Limit of 10 points to any one member.

BEST MAILING COMMENTS. 30 points to distribute. Limit of 10 to one member.

BEST EDITOR. 20 points to distribute. Limit of 5 to one member.

BEST EDITORIAL/NATTERINGS WRITER. 20 points to distribute. Limit of 5.

BEST FICTION WRITER. 20 points to distribute. Limit of 5 to one member.

BEST ARTICLE WRITER. 20 points to distribute. Limit of 5 to one member.

BEST ARTIST/CARTOONIST. 20 points to distribute. Limit of 5 to one member.

BEST HUMORIST. 20 points to distribute. Limit of 5 to one member.

BEST POET. 10 points to distribute. Limit of 5 to one member.

BEST LAYOUT, MAKEUP, REPRODUCTION. 10 points to distribute. Limit of 5.

MOST ENTHUASTIC OMPAN. 10 points. Limit of 5 to one member.

MISCELANEOUS EGOBOO. 10 points to distribute. Limit of 5 to 1 member.

Why do you think that OMPA has deteoriated and what do you think can be done about it?

Signed

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